

# Appendix C: Letters of Commitment



# Charles County Government

## CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*  
Bobby Rucci, *Vice President*  
Gilbert O. Bowling, III  
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.  
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton  
*County Administrator*

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing to express our full support for the joint Charles County and Prince George's County Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) transportation planning grant application and have committed a proportional local share of \$500,000. The grant funding will be used to complete a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) project. Providing a fixed-route, high-capacity transit service along the 19-mile transitway in the MD 5/U.S. 301 corridor is a critical piece of infrastructure to this underserved region of Maryland.

It is the goal of both Charles and Prince George's Counties to continue the progress generated by both the previous transit studies (2010 Southern Maryland Transit Corridor Preservation Study and the 2017 Alternatives Report document) and to work to secure a Record of Decision for this project.

Charles County is committed to solving one of the worst commutes in the Country for our citizens and neighboring jurisdictions. We have stayed on course to redevelop Downtown Waldorf as a walkable, transit-oriented, mixed-use development corridor, to create the necessary infrastructure to support high-capacity transit. Concurrent with the Maryland Transit Administration's 2010 Transit Corridor Study, Charles County completed the Waldorf Urban Design Study, which resulted in the re-zoning of 300 acres of downtown Waldorf as higher-density, transit supportive, mixed-use development. Building on the momentum of both initiatives, the County followed the re-zoning with a "Phase One" development plan and an implementation strategy to launch the Waldorf urban redevelopment effort and is making a \$30 million investment in water, sewer, stormwater and road infrastructure improvements in the future transit corridor. Private sector investment along the transit corridor has already begun as evidenced by the forthcoming Waldorf Station development, bringing mixed-use, high density development adjacent to the first planned transit station in Charles County.

April 28, 2020


Partnerships and collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions are essential for the successful delivery of the SMRT service. Throughout the planning process for the SMRT project, we have worked closely with Prince George's County's elected and appointed officials, including the Prince George's County Executive and Council, the staff of the Prince George's County Planning Department (the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission), and the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation. On November 15, 2011, the Prince George's County Council unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Maryland Department of Transportation to include the Southern Maryland high-capacity, fixed-route transit project in Maryland's Consolidated Transportation Program and designate it as the State's next major transit priority. In this resolution, Prince George's County makes a commitment to work in partnership with Charles County, urges State and federal officials to support this initiative, and agrees to promote transit-oriented development around proposed transit stations in the corridor. Since that pivotal commitment in the 2011 Resolution, the two Counties have worked together to bring this project to fruition for our constituents and businesses.

As an expression of regional support, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland has consistently designated this project as the number one regional transit priority for Southern Maryland. The project has also received the support of United States Senators Benjamin Cardin and Chris Van Hollen. In correspondence with previous MDOT Secretaries and the Federal Transit Administration, these Senators voice strong support for the allocation of federal transit planning funds for this greatly needed project. Accommodating future high-capacity transit service in the vitally important MD 5/U.S. 301 corridor from Charles County to Branch Avenue will help preserve highway capacity, manage congestion, enhance local mobility, facilitate shorter commutes, and focus job opportunities, economic development, and investment opportunities near transit.


I urge you to favorably consider the SMRT project and invest in this transformational initiative. The application demonstrates the project's substantial benefits, and Charles County, Prince George's County, and the State of Maryland are prepared to commit the required match of the grant funds.

Very truly,

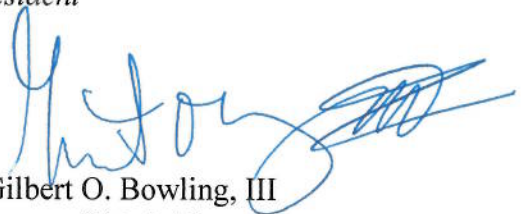
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND




Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*




Bobby Rucci, *Vice President*  
*District 4*



Gilbert O. Bowling, III  
*District 1*



Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.  
*District 2*



Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.  
*District 3*





Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing on behalf of Prince George's County to express my full support as a co-applicant with Charles County and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in this Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) transportation planning grant application. Prince George's and Charles counties have advanced several mixed-use, transit-oriented centers along the corridor, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (MWCOC) long-range transportation plan forecasts significant population and employment growth in the area. Today there are 5.7 million people living in the National Capital Region, which is expected to grow to over 6.9 million by 2045. There is limited ability to expand current roadways and further expansion is extremely constrained.

The anticipated grant funding will be used to complete a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) project. The proposed SMRT will provide a separated, high-capacity transit line in this rapidly-growing corridor, and will help to transform the greater Washington, DC region. Recognition of a need for mass transit as the region grows dates back to the Southern Maryland Mass Transportation Study of 1966. Since then, there have been numerous transit studies in the corridor, most recently culminating with the *2017 Final Alternatives Report*, which was conducted in collaboration between the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) and Prince George's and Charles Counties. Completing a DEIS is the next critical step for a project which will help create a more sustainable and economically resilient region.

While these are financially constrained times, because it is so important, we are pledging \$500,000 to this proposed project, matching the individual commitments of Charles County and MDOT. This is a true partnership that I am very proud to be a part of in striving to build a better region. I urge you to favorably consider the SMRT Project and invest in this transformational initiative.

Sincerely,

Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

cc: The Honorable Gregory Slater, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation  
The Honorable Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President, Board of Charles County Commissioners  
The Honorable Joanne C. Benson, Chair, Prince George's County Senate Delegation  
The Honorable Erik Barron, Chair, Prince George's County House Delegation  
The Honorable Todd Turner, Chair, Prince George's County Council  
The Honorable Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Vice-Chair, Prince George's County Council  
The Honorable Mel Franklin, Member, Prince George's County Council  
The Honorable Monique Anderson-Walker, Member, Prince George's County Council  
The Honorable Sydney J. Harrison, Member, Prince George's County Council  
Major F. Riddick, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive  
Floyd E. Holt, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Government Infrastructure and  
Technology  
Terry L. Bellamy, Director, Prince George's Department of Public Works and Transportation  
Martin L. Harris, Deputy Director, Prince George's Department of Public Works and  
Transportation  
Gwendolyn T. Clerkley, Deputy Director, Prince George's Department of Public Works  
and Transportation  
Elizabeth Hewlett, Chair, Prince George's County Planning Board, Maryland-National  
Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)  
Andree Green Checkley, Esq., Prince George's County Department of Planning, Maryland-  
National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)  
Kevin Quinn, Administrator, Maryland Transit Administration



Larry Hogan  
Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor  
Gregory Slater  
Secretary

Office of the Secretary

May 7, 2020

Ms. Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the joint Charles County, Prince George's County, and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) transportation planning grant application. The grant funding will be used to complete a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) project. Providing a separated, high-capacity transit line in this rapidly growing corridor will be transformative to the greater Washington, DC region, and completing the DEIS is an important first step in delivering this project.

The Southern Maryland rapid transit line concept was first envisioned in the 1996 Southern Maryland Mass Transportation Study. Since then, numerous transit feasibility studies have been completed in the corridor, culminating with the 2017 Final Alternatives Report. This three-year, pre-National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning study was conducted collaboratively between MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) and Prince George's and Charles Counties. It marked a major milestone in providing sustainable congestion relief along the SMRT project corridor. Completing a DEIS is the next critical step for this important project.

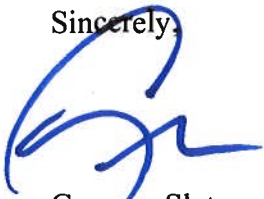
Prince George's and Charles Counties have initiated the creation of mixed-use, transit-oriented centers along the corridor, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (MWCOC) long-range transportation plan forecasts significant population and employment growth in the area. Today there are 5.7 million people living in the National Capital Region, which is expected to grow to more than 6.9 million by 2045. According to MWCOC's Cooperative Forecasts Round 9.1, Charles County's population will grow at the fastest rate of 44 percent. There is limited ability to expand current roadway footprints, and the commuter bus system is reaching capacity and further expansion is difficult. As travel demand along the SMRT corridor increases, a separated, high-capacity transit system is essential to accommodate the demand.

Ms. Elaine Chao  
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I urge you to favorably consider the SMRT project and invest in this transformational initiative. The application demonstrates the project's substantial benefits, and Charles County, Prince George's County, and the State of Maryland are prepared to commit the required match of the grant funds.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Heather Murphy, MDOT Office of Planning and Capital Programming (OPCP) Director, at 410-865-1275 or by email at [hmurphy@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:hmurphy@mdot.state.md.us). Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Gregory Slater  
Secretary

cc: Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, OPCA, MDOT

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Ms. Elaine Chao  
Page Three

bcc: Ms. Samantha Biddle, Chief Strategy Officer, MDOT  
Thomas J. Curtin, Esq., Chief of Staff, MDOT  
Mr. R. Earl Lewis, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Policy, Planning, and Enterprise Services,  
MDOT  
Ms. Michelle Martin, Deputy Director, OPCP, MDOT  
Mr. Sean Powell, Deputy Secretary, Operations and Homeland Security, MDOT  
Mr. Jeff Stockdale, Federal Legislative Officer, MDOT  
Mr. Jeff Tosi, Director, Office of Government Affairs, MDOT